

APPLICATION FOR A UNITED STATES PATENT

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Title: MODULE AND HOUSING FOR DWDM EQUIPMENT

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CROSS REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

The present application claims the benefit of U.S. Application No. 60/258,178 filed December 22, 2001, the entire contents of the above application is incorporated herein by reference.

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

With the growth of fiber optic communication systems, numerous devices have been developed to house and manage the complex assemblies needed. However, there remains a continuing need for improvements to lower cost, increase efficiency and provide for ease maintenance.

10 SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to improvements in wavelength division multiplexing systems providing more efficient fiber optic connectivity and maintenance. A module having a base panel with one or more handles, DWDM clamps, a lower splice platform and an upper splice platform are used to access
15 and control fiber management. A housing is used to hold pluralities of moudles.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The foregoing and other objects, features and advantages of the invention will be apparent from the following more particular description of preferred embodiments of the invention, as illustrated in the accompanying drawings in which like reference
20 characters refer to the same parts throughout the different views. The drawings are not necessarily to scale, emphasis instead being placed upon illustrating the principles of the invention.

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FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a module for fiber optic equipment.

FIG. 2 is a top view of the module of FIG. 1.

FIG. 3 is a front view of the module of FIG. 1.

5 FIG. 4 is an exploded view of the module of FIG. 1.

FIG. 5A is a top view of the module of FIG. 1 with hidden lines visible.

FIG. 5B is a top view of the module of FIG. 1 with fiber optic equipment located therein.

10 FIG. 6 is a perspective view of an embodiment of a housing for holding four modules.

FIG. 7 is a front view of the housing of FIG. 6.

FIG. 8 is a right side view of the housing of FIG. 6.

FIG. 9 is an exploded view of the housing of FIG. 6.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

15 FIGS. 1-5A, 5B illustrate an embodiment of a module 100 for fiber optic equipment. FIG. 1 shows, by way of a perspective view, elements of the module 100 that include stepped or angled front cover 114, rear cover 115, left front panel 105, right front panel 106 and body shelf or base panel 101 with integral handles 101A. The left and right front panels 105, 106 are angled and include standard fiber adapters 107. FIG.
20 2 is a top view and FIG. 3 is a front view of the module 100.

FIG. 4 is an exploded view of the module 100 which shows the assembly of the module. As shown in this view, the module further includes double DWDM clamp 102, single DWDM clamp 104, lower splice platform 110, upper splice platform 112 and spiral wraps 108, 109. FIG. 5A is a top view of the module 100 with hidden lines
25 visible. In particular, the hidden lines of double DWDM clamp 102, single DWDM clamp 104, lower splice platform 110, upper splice platform 112 and spiral wraps 108, 109 are visible in this view.

FIG. 5B is a top view of the module 100 with fiber optic equipment mounted therein. In particular, dense wavelength division multiplexing (DWDM) devices 117, 119 are shown mounted using the DWDM clamps 102, 104. For example, Avanex DWDM devices can be mounted therein. The single DWDM clamp 104 is adapted for
5 mounting one such device. The double DWDM clamp 102 is adapted for mounting two such devices.

FIG. 5B also shows the routing of optical fibers 118 that connect between connectors 115 on the front panels 105, 106 and the DWDM devices 117, 119 through splices 116.

10 The clamps 102, 104 hold the DWDM devices in place so that the fiber pigtails exit the DWDM devices toward the center of the module. The clamps 102, 104 are padded to provide isolation from vibration transferred by the module itself.

The splice platforms 110, 112 are located between the clamps 102, 104 that hold the DWDM devices. The splice platforms provide for fiber management and mounting
15 of the splices 116. The upper splice platform 112 accommodates additional splices if needed beyond those provided by the lower splice platform 110. The spiral wraps 108, 109 are used for managing the optical fiber pigtails that exit from the DWDM devices and connect to the standard fiber adapters 107 on front panels 105, 106. In particular, the fibers connected to the adapters are routed underneath the lower splice platform 110
20 in a half coil using the spiral wraps 108, 109. Use of the spiral wraps limits the possibility of breaking a fiber while servicing the connectors due to hard pulling. If a fiber is pulled hard, the spiral wrap deforms which prevents a large stress on any point on the fiber. Another advantage of the embodiment of the module described herein is that prewiring of the modules is facilitated such that the DWDM devices can
25 be placed into the modules and fibers spliced thereto.

The body shelf 101 of the module 100 provides a support for the optical fiber cables that connect to the adapters 107 of front panels 105, 106 of the module. The integral pair of handles 101A of body shelf 101 facilitate insertion and removal of the module from the housing 200 (described herein below).

5 FIGs. 6-9 illustrate an embodiment of a housing 200 for holding up to four modules 100. FIG. 6 shows, by way of a perspective view, elements of the housing 200 that include top panel 205, top and bottom side panels 205A, 205B, angle mounts 212, fiber supports 206, front door unit 207 with integral door hinge 208, door hinge pin 208A, door window 209 and latches 211. FIG. 7 is a front view and FIG. 8 is a right
10 side view of the housing 200.

FIG. 9 is an exploded view of the housing 200 which shows the assembly of the housing. As shown in this view, the housing further includes bottom panel 201 and left and right side mounting units 202, 204. The left and right side mounting units include tabs or lips 202A, 204A which serve to support the modules 100 (FIGs. 1-5A, 5B).

15 While this invention has been particularly shown and described with references to preferred embodiments thereof, it will be understood by those skilled in the art that various changes in form and details may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention encompassed by the appended claims.